

PRIMARY PROCESSES R & D - TUCSON

Summary of Activities - April 1981

I. BASIC RESOURCES RESEARCH

Ammonoalunite Process

A project plan was prepared outlining initial laboratory work to evaluate the technical feasibility of the proposed ammonoalunite process for the extraction of alumina from kaolin clays. Preliminary lab tests are underway.

AlF₃ from Failed Potlinings

Initial discussions with Alcan indicate they may be willing to provide their proposed technology and enter into a joint development arrangement with us. Stan Becker is preparing a draft agreement.

II. REDUCTION RESEARCH

No active projects as yet. A trip to Plano is planned to talk to the Arco New Technology group about their activities in this area.

III. DEVELOPMENT

Magnetics

The ASV study report for Columbia Falls was received. A meeting with ASV is scheduled for May 7 and 8 in Columbia Falls.

Petroleum Pitch

A meeting with all affected parties is being arranged for mid-May to formulate our basic approach to possible use of petroleum pitch as a substitute anode binder.

IV. TECHNICAL SERVICES

Basement Material Recovery and Recycling

At the request of Columbia Falls, a project proposal was prepared outlining our planned investigation. The focus will be on developing a dry process to remove iron, silica and debris from reclaimed basement material to provide a "clean" alumina and bath material for recycling to the potrooms.

V. PERSONNEL

Dr. J. C. (James) Withers has accepted the position of Supervisor - Reduction Research. He will be "on board" approximately June 1.

Initial responses are being received to our advertisement in Chemical & Engineering News, Chemical Engineering Progress, Journal of Metals and Light Metal Age. It looks like we will be inundated with replies.